

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-20, 22-24 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, claims 1-20 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Reilly et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0026349) and Theimer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,493,692). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

As shown above and requested in the Amendment filed on October 18, 2006, claims 5 and 14 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections of claims 5 and 14 moot. the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove any further rejections of claims 5 and 14 infuture Office Actions.

In response to the Remarks submitted on December 4, 2006, the Office Action cited Fig. 5 of Reilly et al. as teaching "the selection and rank setting using a user interface in which the user inputs topical categories and keywords as parameters in rank ordering" (page 8 at lines 13-14). However, the discussion of Fig. 5 in paragraph [0071] merely shows that it is possible to select a category, and does not show that a distribution rank is allowed to be selected from "among distribution ranks defining distribution conditions containing designation of a summarization degree of distribution information in a plurality of levels" as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 20 (e.g. claim 1, lines 8-9).

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 11 and 20 as well as claims 2-4, 7-10, 12, 13, 15-19 and 22-24, which depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over Reilly et al. and Theimer et al., individually or in combination.

Request for Interview

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange an Interview, if the rejection is not withdrawn or modified to add a reference that teaches what is missing from Reilly et al. In addition, the Examiner is requested to make this contact with the undersigned before preparing the next Office Action to allow time for a Supplemental Amendment to be filed.

Summary:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7/12/07

By: David E. Moore
David E. Moore
Registration No. 59,047

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501